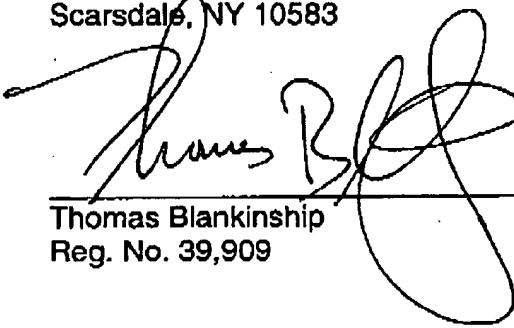


REMARKS

Claims 1 to 17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, and 11 have been amended.

Applicant has elected compound 8 as shown on page 38 and claimed in its isomeric forms in dependent claims 4, 7, and 11, namely the top two structures of those claims. Independent claim 1 recites a generic formula (I) that includes compound 8. Independent claim 5 relates to the process for the preparation of a compound of generic formula (I) encompassing the elected compound 8 within its scope. Claims 12 to 17 relate to the intermediates formed in the process of preparing the compound of generic formula (I) as claimed in claim 5.

Respectfully submitted,
LACKENBACH SIEGEL, LLP
1 Chase Road
Scarsdale, NY 10583



Thomas Blankinship
Reg. No. 39,909

Date: March 17, 2004